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Pitcairn

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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Note: The information contained in the present working paper has been derived from public sources, including those of the territorial Government, and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the administering Power under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. Information was transmitted by the administering Power on 18 December 2017. Further details are contained in previous working papers, available from www.un.org/en/decolonization/workingpapers.shtml.

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The Territory at a glance

Territory: Pitcairn is a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the Charter of the United Nations administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Representative of administering Power: Governor: Jonathan Sinclair.

Geography: Pitcairn is located midway between New Zealand and the continent of South America at 25°S and 130°W. It comprises four islands: Pitcairn (the only inhabited island), Henderson, Ducie and Oeno.

Land area: 35.5 km^2 (Pitcairn Island: 4.35 km^2).

Exclusive economic zone (now a maritime protected area): 834,000 km^2.

Population: 48 (2017); this figure includes individuals temporarily abroad.

Life expectancy at birth: Not available.

Languages: The official languages are English and Pitkern, a mixture of eighteenth-century English and Tahitian.

Capital: Adamstown, the only settlement.

Mayor: Shawn Christian

Main political parties: None.

Elections: Elections for the Island Council and Deputy Mayor are held every two years (most recent election: November 2017); elections for the Mayor, the head of the Council, are held every three years. The last mayoral election was held on 9 November 2016.

Economy: The economy of Pitcairn is based largely on fishing, horticulture, the sale of stamps and handicrafts, beekeeping and honey production. Pitcairn receives budgetary aid from the United Kingdom.

Monetary unit: New Zealand dollar ($NZ).

Brief history: Pitcairn is named after Robert Pitcairn, a British midshipman who sighted it in 1767. The island was uninhabited when castaways from HMS *Bounty* (9 mutineers and 18 Polynesians) arrived there in 1790. Most of the inhabitants of Pitcairn today can trace their ancestry back to those mutineers.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. A new constitution came into effect in March 2010, replacing the Pitcairn Order 1970 and the Pitcairn Royal Instructions 1970. The Governor is appointed by the British Crown. In practice, the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to New Zealand is appointed concurrently as Governor of Pitcairn, and overall responsibility for the administration of the island is accordingly vested in this function.

2. Under the Constitution, the Governor may make laws for the peace, order and good government of Pitcairn after consultation with the Island Council. Laws enacted by the Governor are styled ordinances. All ordinances are subject to disallowance by the British monarch, on the advice of the Secretary of State. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland retains the general power to legislate directly for Pitcairn by an Act of Parliament or an Order in Council.

3. Islanders manage their internal affairs through the Island Council, the existence of which is enshrined in the Constitution and the composition and functions of which are established by the Local Government Ordinance (Laws of Pitcairn Revised Edition 2017). The Ordinance confers upon the Council the duty, subject to orders and directions of the Governor, to provide for the enforcement of the laws of Pitcairn and empowers it to make regulations for the good administration of Pitcairn, the maintenance of peace, order and public safety and the social and economic advancement of the islanders. According to the 2017 revised edition of the Ordinance, the Council consists of seven voting members (the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and five Councillors, all elected) and three non-voting ex officio members (the Governor, the Deputy Governor and the Administrator (a role created in December 2014)). During elections held in November 2016, Shawn Christian was re-elected as Mayor.

A. Electoral qualifications

4. In order to vote for Island Officers, persons must be at least 18 years old, intend to remain on Pitcairn indefinitely and have been resident there for a specified period: one year if the person has a right of abode on Pitcairn or is a spouse of someone otherwise entitled to vote; two years if the person is a de facto marital partner of a person otherwise entitled to vote; or three years if the person is normally resident on Pitcairn. Anyone who is eligible to vote may also stand for election to any of the island offices, so long as he or she has not been sentenced to imprisonment for three months or more in the past five years. The Island Secretary prepares the register of voters in September/October of each election year, and elections are held between the first and fifteenth days in November (inclusive).

B. Judicial system and human rights

5. The Island Magistrate is appointed by the Governor from among the residents of Pitcairn. Other magistrates, legally qualified in a Commonwealth country, are appointed to preside over the Magistrate's Court in matters beyond the powers of the Island Magistrate. The Magistrate's Court sits with two Assessors, except in specified circumstances. The criminal jurisdiction of the Magistrate's Court is limited to offences triable summarily or either way, to committal proceedings and certain inquiries; and the magistrates have prescribed limits on their sentencing powers. The Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction in civil litigation up to a prescribed level. There

is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court of Pitcairn, which is a superior court of record and has jurisdiction in criminal and civil cases beyond the competence of the Magistrate's Court. The Supreme Court is constituted by a judge sitting alone. The judges of the Supreme Court are the Chief Justice and up to four other judges. The Supreme Court may sit with assessors if it thinks it expedient or practical to do so. There are further rights of appeal to the Pitcairn Court of Appeal, which is composed of a President, two or more Justices of Appeal and the Chief Justice, and to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

6. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over alleged breaches of the fundamental rights contained in the Constitution. It has power to make such declarations and orders as it considers appropriate for the purpose of upholding the rights, and may award damages. The Governor, as holder of the highest executive office, and the Chief Justice, as head of the judiciary, are responsible within their respective spheres of authority for overseeing the implementation of human rights on Pitcairn.

7. A child safety review conducted in 2015 highlighted the need for continued safeguarding measures on the island. In addition, 11 islanders graduated from the Child Protection Studies programme, a training course accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, between 2011 and 2013. A further review has recently been concluded, and the outcome and recommendations are expected in early 2018.

8. At the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, held in London on 28 and 28 November 2017, the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories discussed their shared resolve to continue to promote respect for human rights and compliance with international obligations in the territories. In the communiqué adopted at that meeting, they welcomed the constructive engagement of the territories in the preparations for the universal periodic review process of the Human Rights Council in that regard. The leaders of the overseas territories also reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the highest possible standards for the protection of children and promotion of children's welfare in the territories. At the meeting, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories discussed progress made in promoting inter-agency cooperation in the territories and the development of national response plans to define policy priorities, noted the particular challenges for those territories affected by the recent hurricanes and agreed that children's welfare should remain a central priority for recovery plans, including through the reconstruction of schools. In addition, they welcomed progress made under a memorandum of understanding to promote more effective collaboration between the overseas territories for the safeguarding of children.

9. In the communiqué, the overseas territories and the United Kingdom welcomed the progress made by the overseas territories with financial centres in implementing the arrangements set out in the exchange of notes on law enforcement exchange of beneficial ownership information, including establishing new and secure systems for the collection, exchange and use of beneficial ownership data, where they did not already exist. The Joint Ministerial Council committed itself to reviewing the effectiveness of the arrangements six months prior to their implementation deadline. It welcomed the cooperation of the overseas territories in international efforts to promote tax transparency and tackle financial crime and the constructive engagement of the overseas territories with the Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) of the European Union and at the first meeting of the Global Forum on Asset Recovery. The Joint Ministerial Council reiterated its commitment to showing leadership in tackling corruption and committed itself to prioritizing further work to enable the timely

extension to the territories of the application of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular when territories have requested such an extension, and to set a clear path for that process, building on the meeting held during the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017.

II. Budget

10. According to the United Kingdom, the 2016–2017 expenditure for Pitcairn, supported by the Department for International Development, was £3.475 million. According to the Department, the financial aid covers citizens' reasonable assistance needs, ensuring the maintenance of a range of basic public services (e.g., electricity and telecommunications) and the provision of part-time public sector employment. Financial aid is also used for medical and educational services, as well as a shipping service that provides a necessary lifeline in terms of freight and passenger services. The prospect of self-sufficiency is very low in the case of Pitcairn because of its size and remoteness. The island's financial aid has increased by some 200 per cent over the last decade (from 2007 to 2017), owing mainly to the cost of the new shipping service introduced in 2008, the associated costs of the four expatriate professionals (police officer, family and community adviser, teacher and doctor) and exchange rate fluctuations. The major recurrent expenditures include shipping and freight subsidies; the costs of off-island professionals who are employed to ensure continued child safeguarding and other medical, police, teaching and social welfare matters; and satellite telecommunications services. Under the tenth European Development Fund, which covers the period 2014–2020, Pitcairn will receive a territorial allocation of €2.4 million, and the indicative amount for the eleventh European Development Fund is also €2.4 million.

III. Economic and social conditions

11. The principal source of income for the public economy had traditionally been the sale of stamps. Owing largely to a downturn in the stamp market, however, the island now receives financial assistance from the Department for International Development. A scaled-down stamp trade continues nonetheless, with six or seven new stamp issues released each year. Pitcairn coins (New Zealand mint) are another collector's item but, as with stamps, generate little revenue. Revenue is also generated from landing fees for tourist arrivals.

12. The Territory's income is also supplemented by the sale of Internet domain names. Internet users worldwide can acquire a ".pn" suffix that is permanently awarded to Pitcairn for, according to the territorial Government, a fee of $100 annually or $10 per month. Also available for purchase are the subdomains ".co.pn", ".net.pn" and ".org.pn", which cost $50 per year.

13. The private economy of Pitcairn is based on the manufacture and sale of handicrafts, some of which are available directly through the Internet. Bartering, mainly with passing ships, is also an important part of the economy. The island's fertile soil produces a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Some islanders also provide a homestay service to tourists. Pitcairn has no hotels or motels. The Pitcairn Island Producers' Cooperative, established in 1999, promotes and coordinates the distribution of honey and honey products. According to data from the Commonwealth Secretariat, a range of minerals, including manganese, iron, copper, gold, silver and

zinc, have been discovered within the maritime protected area of Pitcairn. Exploitation of these minerals is prohibited under the maritime protected area ordinance.

14. The Government of Pitcairn has developed a five-year strategic development plan, covering the period 2012–2016, reviewed in 2014 and now covering the period 2014–2018, which sets out the views and aspirations of the islanders for the socioeconomic development of Pitcairn. It is based largely on efforts to boost revenue by increasing tourism, small business development and honey production. It is a living document and is frequently updated.

15. Three main challenges to socioeconomic development have been identified by the Department for International Development: the legacy of the child sexual abuse cases and the continuing need to maintain rigorous child protection measures; the ageing population and the declining share of the population that is economically active; and the lack of migration to the island.

16. With regard to the first challenge, the administering Power has put in place interventions to create a substantial child safeguarding framework, and independent reviews took place in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Reviews through 2015 recommended continued Government of the United Kingdom leadership and responsibility for overseeing child safety on Pitcairn, continued appropriate vetting of any adults intending to move to Pitcairn, the integration of child safeguarding into all future development planning for Pitcairn, regular review of children's development and circumstances and the continued management and monitoring of known sex offenders. Reviews through 2015 also explicitly recommended that off-island professionals continue to be employed to implement child safeguarding procedures and protocols, with oversight by the administering Power. The report on the review of child safety for 2017 is expected to be issued in 2018; its recommendations were not yet known at the time of writing.

17. Regarding the second challenge, of the resident population of 48, there are only 28 in paid employment. Only seven people in this paid employment group are under 50, and none is in the 20–30 age group. There are currently 27 people on the island over 50, 10 of whom are over 65. By 2025, the age dependency ratio (those under 18 and over 65, compared with the productive population) is expected to be more than 100 per cent, compared with the current ratio of 58 per cent. The situation is having an increasingly negative impact on economic production and health-care costs. The natural growth rate of the population is already below a sustainable replacement rate. From 2001 to 2012, there were only eight births and fewer than five women of childbearing age. The Department for International Development notes that, considering that there are only three options for increasing the population — children being born to islanders, the return of some of the diaspora and/or immigration to the island — this will continue to be a consideration in socioeconomic development planning for the foreseeable future. The implications of an ageing population for future financial aid rounds are that increasing funds will be required in the medium term to assist the ageing population.

18. With respect to the third challenge, in the second half of 2013, a survey was launched to ascertain whether members of the diaspora had any interest in returning to the Territory, and the factors affecting such a decision.

19. According to the final report of the survey, presented in January 2014 by a consultancy firm, the overall response rate was 28 per cent (33 of 120 households). The following three barriers to potential returns were identified: the legacy of the

child sexual abuse cases, acceptance of outsiders and new ideas and accessibility. No significant interest among members of the diaspora in returning to or investing in Pitcairn was identified, and only three respondents expressed interest in living on Pitcairn permanently.

20. It was found that the child sexual abuse cases had created a clear reluctance on the part of members of the diaspora to publicly identify themselves as being from Pitcairn, and had sullied the Territory's reputation. The view was that on-island social norms did not conform to acceptable international norms. Reference was made to multigenerational (long-standing) inappropriate social behaviour. The survey also identified negative perceptions regarding the idea of bringing children to the Territory and concerns related to child protection issues. The need for a community reconciliation process was also identified. According to the administering Power, a reconciliation process involving the entire community successfully took place in August 2017.

21. It was noted that acceptance of outsiders was a complex matter. There was a strong belief that outsiders were not welcomed and would not be able to integrate. Acceptance of outsiders with regard to being eligible and selected for government employment or introducing and/or expanding businesses, governance issues and the need for better structures and qualified people were also flagged as areas of concern.

22. It was also noted that accessibility was repeatedly mentioned as a barrier to immigration, especially in relation to factors such as health (medical evacuations), education and general isolation. As of December 2017, this was the subject of detailed consideration by the administering Power, with a view to introducing an improved transport service in 2019.

23. The repopulation plan, covering the period 2014–2019, prepared by the Island Council, was aimed at attracting and retaining migrants and, to ensure its success, addressing areas such as housing, education and health. This has now been superseded by a new repopulation strategy. Like its predecessor, this new strategy recognizes the paramount importance of encouraging new migrants to Pitcairn to settle or work. In September 2015, in line with the strategic development plan, the Island Council approved an immigration policy designed to further promote immigration and repopulation, bringing people with the skills and commitment necessary to Pitcairn. According to official information provided by the Island Council, between 7 February 2016 and 16 October 2017, there were 1,557 repopulation enquiries from 42 countries. Fourteen settlement applications had been received, and six settlement visas were granted.

24. According to the Department for International Development, it had considered the likely effect on reducing gender inequality when designing the Pitcairn financial aid intervention. The Department also manages the key gender issue of the Territory, which is the legacy of child abuse, ensuring that robust child safeguarding mechanisms are in place. The financial aid intervention also provides for services equally for all islanders, with specific attention given to the needs of children and older persons, as well as support and care for those with mental health issues.

A. Transport

25. Access to Pitcairn is possible only by sea. Currently, a shipping service runs from Mangareva in French Polynesia to the island eight times a year, with four freight runs directly from New Zealand. Cruise ships also call during the tourism season,

which lasts from December to March. Ships visiting the island remain at anchor some distance from the shoreline and visitors are ferried to the island in longboats. According to information provided by the Government of the United Kingdom, plans are being taken forward to improve on-island tourist facilities, in particular for cruise ship passengers, given that tourism development is important to the future prosperity of Pitcairn. An alternative landing facility, supported by the European Development Fund, was completed in March 2017.

B. Communications and power supply

26. A communications system was installed in 2006 and upgraded in 2011. In November 2017, an improved telecommunications service was installed to provide faster and more secure Internet connectivity and telephone services. Communication to the island, given its remote location, is expensive to install, run and maintain.

27. Currently, diesel-powered generators provide 240-volt electric power for 15 hours per day (7 a.m.–10 p.m.).

C. Land tenure

28. A land tenure reform ordinance was enacted at the end of 2006 to ensure that every islander was entitled to an allocation of house, garden, orchard and forestry land. According to the administering Power, work is ongoing to ensure that records are complete, after which further reforms may be identified as necessary and/or desirable. More detailed information on land distribution issues is provided in the 2005 working paper (A/AC.109/2005/10).

D. Employment

29. There is a mixture of government employment and self-employment. Under the new governance structure, introduced in April 2009, most of the working-age inhabitants have at least one part-time government job. According to the administering Power, private enterprise is increasing and is encouraged by the Government of Pitcairn. There are no banks on the island, but cash may be drawn against credit cards and foreign currency may be exchanged at the Government Treasurer's office. In November 2015, the Island Council approved an employment policy and an employment guidance. The policy is intended to support the ability of the Government to meet its objectives within the strategic development plan and provides a solid platform for recruitment, performance management, disciplinary procedures and dispute resolution within the Pitcairn public service. Also in November 2015, an occupational health and safety policy was approved by the Island Council. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all employees, contractors and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities to the Government and are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of employees, contractors, volunteers and the Pitcairn Island community.

E. Education

30. Education is free and compulsory for all children between 5 and 15 years of age. The only school was completely rebuilt in 2006. Instruction is in English and based

on the New Zealand standard curriculum. The Education Officer is a qualified teacher recruited from New Zealand, usually for a one-year term. For practical reasons, most children attend post-primary education at schools in New Zealand. Overseas secondary education is encouraged through the granting of bursaries, and a number of pupils have received secondary education in New Zealand at the expense of the Government of Pitcairn. Since 2007, citizens from the overseas territories have benefited from the home student fee rate at British universities. In August 2015, the Island Council approved an education policy to provide equal and impartial educational opportunities for the Pitcairn Island community. Students from overseas territories benefit from the home student rate for school fees at British universities, provided that they have lived in a British overseas territory, the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first academic year of their course of study. In addition, those students have access to funding provided by the European Union for higher or vocational education.

31. Pitcairn has a museum, which was built using funds from a grant from the Government of the United Kingdom. Artefacts on display include stone tools made by Polynesians before the arrival of the mutineers, together with cannonballs, an anchor and a swivel gun from HMS *Bounty*. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church is the only church on the island.

F. Health care

32. A general practitioner is stationed on the island on a one-year contract, assisted by an assistant nurse. The Government of the United Kingdom has also funded a social welfare programme, which includes a family and community adviser. As on other Pacific islands, obesity and diabetes are health problems.

33. At its sixth meeting, the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council welcomed the fact that the Department of Health of the United Kingdom had continued its support for and commitment, in partnership with the territories and Public Health England, to raising awareness of international health regulations and to developing the relevant capacity to respond to major public health incidents, including outbreaks. The United Kingdom and the overseas territories discussed the importance of raising awareness of and building capacity and expertise in the territories for tackling non-communicable diseases, such as obesity and mental health problems, and the impact of those challenges on the populations of the territories. They committed themselves to working together on those important issues so as to share best practices and resources on preventive approaches and the ways in which they could be adapted to respond to local needs.

34. According to the multi-country cooperation strategy for the Pacific 2013–2017 of the World Health Organization, the leading causes of morbidity on Pitcairn include diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, allergies and asthma. Pitcairn actively participates in the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network and closely monitors communicable diseases. Primary health care is available and accessible to all residents. Health care is financed by the Department for International Development. A growing health-related challenge is the extension of periods of drought. The health centre is equipped with a well-stocked dispensary and X-ray technology. The health worker-to-population ratio is 1.5:47 (including the assistant nurse).

G. Criminal justice

35. According to the United Kingdom, the criminal justice system on Pitcairn is administered through a combination of on-island and off-island processes. Criminal law is contained in local ordinances and regulations, as well as in English law of general application. Charges are laid by a police officer or the public prosecutor. Pitcairn has two police officers: a community police officer appointed from among the island residents and an officer who is recruited from New Zealand, usually for a period of 12 months. The public prosecutor is a lawyer qualified in a Commonwealth country.

36. A public defender is appointed by the Governor to represent defendants in criminal cases, and legal aid is available to any person who has insufficient means to obtain legal representation. A publicly funded community lawyer has also been appointed.

37. More minor criminal matters involving breaches of local ordinances or regulations can be heard before the Island Magistrate. Other summary offences and committal proceedings may be heard before the off-island magistrates in the Magistrate's Court. Magistrates must sit with assessors, selected randomly from among the island residents, for all criminal cases with penalties of more than $NZ 400, unless the defendant has admitted guilt or there are no eligible assessors. Indictable offences must be heard in the Supreme Court.

38. The Magistrate's Court and the Supreme Court may sit in Pitcairn, New Zealand or the United Kingdom. To allow for the distances and difficulty of travel to and from Pitcairn, a judge may order that a person involved in a proceeding participate by live video link. In making an order, the judge is required to give particular consideration to the impact of this on the defendant's right to a fair trial. Appeals can be made to the Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Work is currently being carried out to further improve criminal procedure and the accessibility of the law and the courts.

IV. Environment

39. Water-quality testing is carried out in all residential and government buildings, and data are recorded. Leaf catchers, first flush diverters and gutter guards have been installed at all residential and government buildings to reduce contaminates. Water flow measurement data are collected from various springs and the secretariat of the Pacific Community is assisting in collating the data and providing technical assistance. A total of 240 water tanks, with a total storage capacity of 1.4 million litres, have been provided, for an overall increase of 268,000 litres. Weather observations are collected on a daily basis, and weather data have been collected since 1945. The secretariat of the Pacific Community provides technical assistance with graphs and averages.

40. As part of the "Blue Belt" initiative, on 15 September 2016, the Minister of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced that a law designating a marine protected area around Pitcairn had been brought into force. The administering Power indicated that the law prohibits fishing across more than 99 per cent of the 834,000 square km of ocean surrounding the islands, while sustainable local fishing by Pitcairn residents will be preserved. At the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council in London in November 2017, the significant

progress towards creating a "Blue Belt" of marine protection in Pitcairn and other overseas territories was welcomed, and it was agreed that "Blue Belt" objectives would be aligned with the priorities of the territories, including the development of long-term capacity in the territories for the management of the marine environment.

41. The overseas territories biodiversity strategy of the United Kingdom has been devised as a key tool to enable the United Kingdom and overseas territorial governments to meet the relevant international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In April 2014, a report was published about ongoing and planned activities that are supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom, as well as its statutory adviser, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in each of the areas under the strategy. It was noted that the Government of the United Kingdom had awarded £249,946 through the Darwin Initiative to develop a sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for Pitcairn. The project, led by the University of Dundee, will produce a fully operational fisheries and marine management plan that is ecosystem-based and sustainable, which is crucial to providing a secure future for the community and protecting the unique marine biodiversity of Pitcairn. According to the administering Power, draft marine conservation regulations were being prepared as of December 2017. Internal discussions towards establishing a fisheries management plan were also under way.

42. The uninhabited island of Henderson, designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1988, is the largest of the group and the richest in natural resources of the three satellite islands. Environmentalists visit Henderson from time to time, given that it is known for its endemic species of birds and plants in a near-pristine system. In 2011, a non-governmental organization led a project to eradicate rats, which were threatening the bird population. However, the project, to which the Government of the United Kingdom contributed more than £400,000, was unsuccessful and rats remain on the island. The Government of the United Kingdom and the relevant stakeholders are investigating. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds conducted a monitoring expedition in 2015 to assess the situation, and its report was published on 12 September 2016. According to the report, while the reason for the unsuccessful eradication is still unknown, the expedition did identify a number of issues that need to be resolved before another eradication attempt is conducted. The report contains a recommendation that another scientific expedition will be necessary to assess the operational feasibility of another operation. According to public sources, the rat population is back to levels before the eradication project.

43. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the overseas territories recognized that the destruction wrought by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria had served as a reminder of the vulnerability of the overseas territories to climate change-related events and the devastating effect that they could have on the lives and livelihoods of those who lived there. They committed themselves to continuing the practice of mutual engagement ahead of international forums on climate change, to ensure that the views and priorities of the overseas territories were fully reflected in negotiations. It was agreed that a representative from the territories would attend the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018, as part of the delegation of the United Kingdom, highlighting the value of their presence in helping to amplify the shared message of

the need for a high degree of ambition on climate change-related targets. The United Kingdom reiterated its commitment to working with the overseas territories on the issue of extending the application of treaties concerning climate change to the territories, including taking forward the work to extend its ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to those territories that had indicated their readiness for it, through initial consultation with territories that had an interest in participating in meetings concerning the Paris Agreement to be held in the first half of 2018. The importance of work in the territories on climate change adaptation and mitigation and collaboration between the territories to share best practices on environmental management and climate change issues, including through the annual meetings of ministers of the environment of the territories, was emphasized.

V. Relations with international organizations and partners

44. Since January 2014, Pitcairn has been a partner under decision 2013/755/EU of the Council of the European Union on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union, approved, among other things, in an effort to move away from a classic development cooperation approach to a reciprocal partnership that promotes sustainable development and the values and standards of the European Union in the wider world.

45. Pitcairn is a member of the Pacific Community, which is the oldest and largest organization in the 10-member Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, a consultative process that is headed at the political level by the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat. The secretariat of the Pacific Community provides technical assistance, policy advice, training and research services to 22 Pacific island countries and territories in such areas as health, human development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Pitcairn also participates in the Pacific Community Coastal Fisheries Programme. The following international conventions have been extended to Pitcairn: the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In May 2016, the Island Council formally requested the extension of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to Pitcairn. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Government Equalities Office are liaising with Pitcairn as part of the extension process.

46. According to the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the United Kingdom and the overseas territories continued their dialogue on the implications for the latter of the decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union (known as "Brexit"). In addition, it was indicated that a clear objective of the exit negotiations was to achieve an agreement that worked for all parts of the United Kingdom family, and the United Kingdom affirmed that it would seek to ensure that the security and economic sustainability of the overseas territories was preserved and, where possible, strengthened post-"Brexit".

VI. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

47. The most recent statement by a representative of the island's Mayor was made during the Pacific regional seminar on advancing the decolonization process in the Pacific region, held in Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 18 to 20 May 2004. The statement is summarized in the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2004 (A/59/23).

B. Position of the administering Power

48. At the 8th meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 9 October 2017, during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that the relationship of the Government of the United Kingdom with its overseas territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of the people of each Territory to choose to remain British. He said that the territories were an integral part of global Britain and the United Kingdom's commitment to its territories' security and prosperity remained strong, as demonstrated by the swift and comprehensive response to the devastation wreaked in some cases by Hurricane Irma, and the ongoing recovery efforts.

49. The representative of the United Kingdom went on to say that the Joint Ministerial Council was the primary forum for high-level political dialogue between the United Kingdom and the overseas territories. As the United Kingdom negotiated to leave the European Union, it was fully committed to taking into account the priorities of the overseas territories, including Gibraltar. The United Kingdom-Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council on European Union Negotiations had been created to discuss the priorities of the territories and determine further areas for collective engagement. He added that the fundamental responsibility of the Government of the United Kingdom, under international law and the Charter of the United Nations, was to ensure the security and good governance of the territories and their peoples.

50. In the communiqué adopted at the sixth meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council, the Government of the United Kingdom and the leaders of the overseas territories indicated that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in the Charter, applied to the peoples of the overseas territories. They reaffirmed the importance of promoting the right of the peoples of the territories to self-determination, a collective responsibility of all parts of the Government of the United Kingdom. They had committed to explore ways in which the overseas territories could maintain international support in countering hostile sovereignty claims. It was also stated that, for those Territories with permanent populations who wished it, the United Kingdom would continue to support their requests for removal from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Government of the United Kingdom and leaders of the overseas territories agreed that the fundamental structure of their constitutional relationships had been the right one — powers were devolved to the elected Governments of the territories to the maximum extent possible consistent with the United Kingdom retaining those powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities. They also agreed upon the need

to continue their engagement on those issues to ensure that constitutional arrangements worked and were developed effectively to promote the best interests of the territories and of the United Kingdom.

VII. Action taken by the General Assembly

51. On 7 December 2017, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 72/105 on the basis of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2017 (A/72/23) and on the subsequent recommendation by the Fourth Committee. In that resolution, the Assembly:

(a) Reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(b) Also reaffirmed that, in the process of the decolonization of Pitcairn, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

(c) Further reaffirmed that it is ultimately for the people of Pitcairn to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection called upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

(d) Welcomed all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through the training of local personnel;

(e) Requested the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard called upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

(f) Also requested the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn, including as regards demographic matters;

(g) Encouraged the Territory to continue to participate in the activities of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, including regional seminars;

(h) Welcomed the work carried out on the preparation of the five-year strategic development plan for the island;

(i) Stressed the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the people of Pitcairn and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between Pitcairn and the administering Power;

(j) Called upon the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in Pitcairn, and encouraged the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

(k) Reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territory, and requested the administering Power to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economy of the Territory;

(l) Took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, stressed the importance of fostering the economic and social sustainable development of the Territory by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges, and strongly urged the administering Power to refrain from undertaking any kind of illicit, harmful and unproductive activities, including the use of the Territory as a tax haven, that are not aligned with the interest of the people of the Territory;

(m) Requested the Territory and the administering Power to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territory against any degradation, and once again requested the specialized agencies concerned to monitor environmental conditions in the Territory and to provide assistance to the Territory, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

(n) Requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of Pitcairn and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

Map of Pitcairn